



William Gilbert Endowed Primary School & Nursery

Collective Worship Policy 2025-2026



<i>faith</i>	<i>hope</i>	<i>love</i>
To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see. Hebrews 11 v 1 	For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29 v 11 	And now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love another. John 13 v 34 

Through faith, hope and love, we learn together

Our Vision and Mission Statement

At William Gilbert Endowed C of E Primary School and Nursery, Collective Worship is the heartbeat of our school community. Rooted in our Christian vision – “Through faith, hope and love, we learn together.’

Faith

“To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see.” (Hebrews 11v1)

Hope

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.” (Jerimiah 29v11)

Love

“And now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love another”. (John 13v34)

“Our mission is to nurture the whole child, encouraging them to flourish as a child of God.”

Our aims:

- To provide innovative and high-quality teaching, which empowers children to become investigative and independent learners, through as progressive and creative curriculum.
- To uphold and embed high standards of conduct, behaviour and respect shown to all members of our school at all times.
- To provide opportunities and pupils to learn about the life in today’s culturally diverse society.
- To enable every child to fulfil their potential.

As a Church of England School, Collective Worship is central to the life of our school. Collective Worship offers the children and others in our school an opportunity to reflect on values and issues in the context of our Christian ethos. It reflects the school’s vision and shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school. The act of daily Collective Worship will be of a wholly and broadly Christian character.

Collective Worship provides the opportunity for the school to gather together in a variety of contexts and enables participating pupils and staff to consider events of the world and appreciate the rich tapestry of human experience and existence.

This policy outlines how our school implements Collective Worship within our daily routines, including the aims of Collective Worship and how pupils can be withdrawn.

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- The School Standards and Framework Act 1998

This policy also has due regard to guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (1994) 'Religious Education and Collective Worship'
- DfE (2012) 'Religious education (RE) and Collective Worship in academies and free schools'

Definition of Collective Worship

For the purpose of this policy, "**Collective Worship**" is an act which is additional to, and separate from, ordinary school activities. Collective Worship is a time when individuals come together, and reverence or veneration is paid to a divine being or power.

To "**take part**" in Collective Worship implies more than a passive attendance, such that it should have the ability to elicit responses from pupils even though they may not feel able to actively identify in the act of worship on a particular occasion.

Aims of Collective Worship

Collective Worship should be beneficial to all members of our school community. It is a time when the community comes together in an attitude of reverence and reflection to share, reflect, learn and worship.

Collective Worship aims to:

- Provide pupils with the opportunity to plan, lead or contribute to discussions on key themes and topics.
- Help pupils to develop an awareness of their community and the spirit of helping others.
- Develop a spirit of community and an understanding of individuals with other beliefs.
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each individual's life stance, whether religious or not.
- Provide an opportunity for children to learn about God, talk about God and worship God.
- Enable children to explore a range of forms of worship and recognise the rich traditions of the Anglican church Enable children to explore their own beliefs.
- Enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues and a breadth of questions which relate to life and living.
- Encourage participation and response and cultivate an attitude characterised by feelings of awe, wonder, appreciation, thankfulness, respect and joy.
- Acknowledge the things which have meaning and value, giving purpose to the children as individuals, as well as for the school and the wider community

- Promote an understanding of the importance of British Values.
- Promote the vision and ethos of the school and develop deeper understanding of core Christian values.
- Foster a sense of community within and beyond the school.
- Celebrate key festivals, achievements, special occasions and events in relation to children, the school, the church and the wider community as a whole.
- Acknowledge, respect and celebrate the difference and diversity within God's world.
- Encourage daily opportunities for reflection.

Opportunities for Collective Worship

Although we are a Church of England School, we welcome families associated with other churches, from other major world faiths or of no faith at all.

Collective Worship recognises the collective nature of beliefs and opinions of those present. Worship should be offered in such a way that all those present, regardless of faith or worldview stance, can feel comfortable and welcome, not expected, to participate in the experience being offered.

Collective Worship does not pre-suppose shared beliefs, it should not seek uniform responses from pupils, embracing diversity of beliefs and points of view.

William Gilbert School implement Collective Worship in line with advice given by the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE).

- Every pupil will participate in the act of Collective Worship unless they have been withdrawn in line with section 7 of this policy.
- Worship will broadly be of a Christian character.

Organisation of Collective Worship

- An act of worship is held every day. This can be whole school, a set of classes or one class and may take place in the school hall, at church, in classroom or outdoors. Worship may be led by senior leaders, visitors, clergy from the Church, teachers or children.
- Worship is specifically Christian and in line with the principles of the Church of England. Class prayers are said at the end of the day.
- We conduct Collective Worship in a dignified and respectful way. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. Children are invited to participate in prayers and encouraged to fully participate in activities, songs, and hymns.
- We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and meaningful objects to focus the attention of the children.

- Collective Worship takes place in a variety of groupings in the school hall, classrooms and on occasions outside.
- We follow the seasons of the Church year and within these significant festivals and other special days are observed. These always include Harvest, Christmas, Easter and key events such as Pentecost occur.
- Acts of Collective Worship will incorporate stories and teachings from the Bible as an aid to reflection and deeper understanding of human experience.
- Whenever worship takes place, it is planned to promote thinking beyond the time given to worship itself.
- Collective Worship is planned around our Christian vision and values and these are explored through a variety of activities and response tasks that help children deepen their understanding of faith, hope and love.
- Values are shared with parents and the wider community and are explicitly referenced within aspects of the wider curriculum.

Collective Worship in the Early Years

In the Early Years, children follow the values of the school with worship sessions adapted to suit the needs and age of the children. Collective Worship is provided on a daily basis and learning from these sessions is recorded in class books.

To support children to have a positive experience of relevant worship we integrate them into whole school Collective Worship as the year progresses. Children in Reception attend whole school worship as appropriate. In the summer term children in Reception attend all worship sessions.

Weekly Collective Worship programme

- The school aims to deliver a varied Collective Worship programme to pupils. The current schedule is outlined in the table below:

Day of the week	Delivery of programme
Monday	Clergy led worship (Year 3 – 6) Teacher led worship (Rec, Year 1 and Year 2)
Tuesday	Child-led class worships (Year 3 - 6) Class-based worships (Rec, Year 1 and Year 2)
Wednesday	Open the Book (Nursery, Rec, Year 1 and Year 2) Worship (Year 3 - 6)
Thursday	KS1 Worship KS2 Worship
Friday	A whole-school worship delivered by school staff

Collective Worship themes are delivered over a three-year cycle

	Year A	Year B	Year C
Autumn 1 (Harvest)	The World	Belonging /Community	Our Vision (Faith, Hope and Love)
Autumn 2 (Christmas)	Celebrations	Light	Gifts / Generosity
Spring 1	People of Faith	Old Testament Characters	Tolerance/ Respect
Spring 2 (Easter)	Stories of Jesus	Life of Jesus	Hope/ Humility
Summer 1 (Pentecost)	Signs and Symbols	New Testament characters	Fruit of the Spirit
Summer 2	Journeys	Worship and Beliefs	Courage / Resilience

Collective Worship and Spiritual Development

Whilst opportunities for spiritual development are fostered across the whole curriculum, acts of Collective Worship provide particular opportunities for promoting the spiritual development of pupils. In approaching Collective Worship, we acknowledge and respect pupils and staff with non-religious worldviews offering opportunity for spiritual and educational reflection and personal development. Children are encouraged to ask questions and deepen their understanding of who they are and the world in which they live.

Our approach to spiritual development includes:

- The recognition that there is something more to life than the ordinary
- acknowledging the capacity of pupils to reach beyond the everyday experiences of life.
- The development of the inner life of each pupil.
- Search for meaning.
- A sense of values.
- Giving time for stillness and reflection, and the exploration of inner thoughts and feelings.
- Providing opportunities for pupils to share what is important to them.
- Celebrating what is worthwhile in pupils' own lives and in the context of the school and wider community.
- Creating an atmosphere conducive to a sense of peace and tranquillity.
- Providing opportunities for pupils to use all their senses.
- Taking account of the age, aptitude and family background of the pupils.
- Fostering an atmosphere of mutual respect.

- Being pupil centred and beginning from pupils' experiences.
- Providing opportunities to develop the imagination It is important to recognise that spiritual development and insight does not necessarily correlate directly with chronological age or academic ability.

Implementation

William Gilbert School aims to promote rich and meaningful experiences of Collective Worship that are appropriate to pupils' needs, ages, and interests by:

- Presenting displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas and thoughts.
- Encouraging pupils to reflect and contemplate on their thoughts, feelings, and beliefs.
- Using artefacts, secular stories, resources, music, art, drama and guest speakers to engage pupils' interest.
- Involving pupils in different experiences of worship, e.g. silence, prayer, rituals and shared or written prayers.

We consider pupils of different ages and abilities when delivering the Collective Worship programme.

Right to withdraw

We expect all children to attend Collective Worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the Collective Worship. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the headteacher and senior leaders in agreement with the Local Trust Committee (LTC)

Children are regularly involved in monitoring, evaluating, and developing Collective Worship.

Any changes made to this policy and the Collective Worship programme will be communicated to all members of staff.

The scheduled review date for this policy is September 2026